

# WAR WITH RED CHINA?

## *Pentagon-CIA Faction Favors It*

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Behind - Scenes Forces  
Have Backed Chiang,  
Who Could Start Con-  
flict With Invasion

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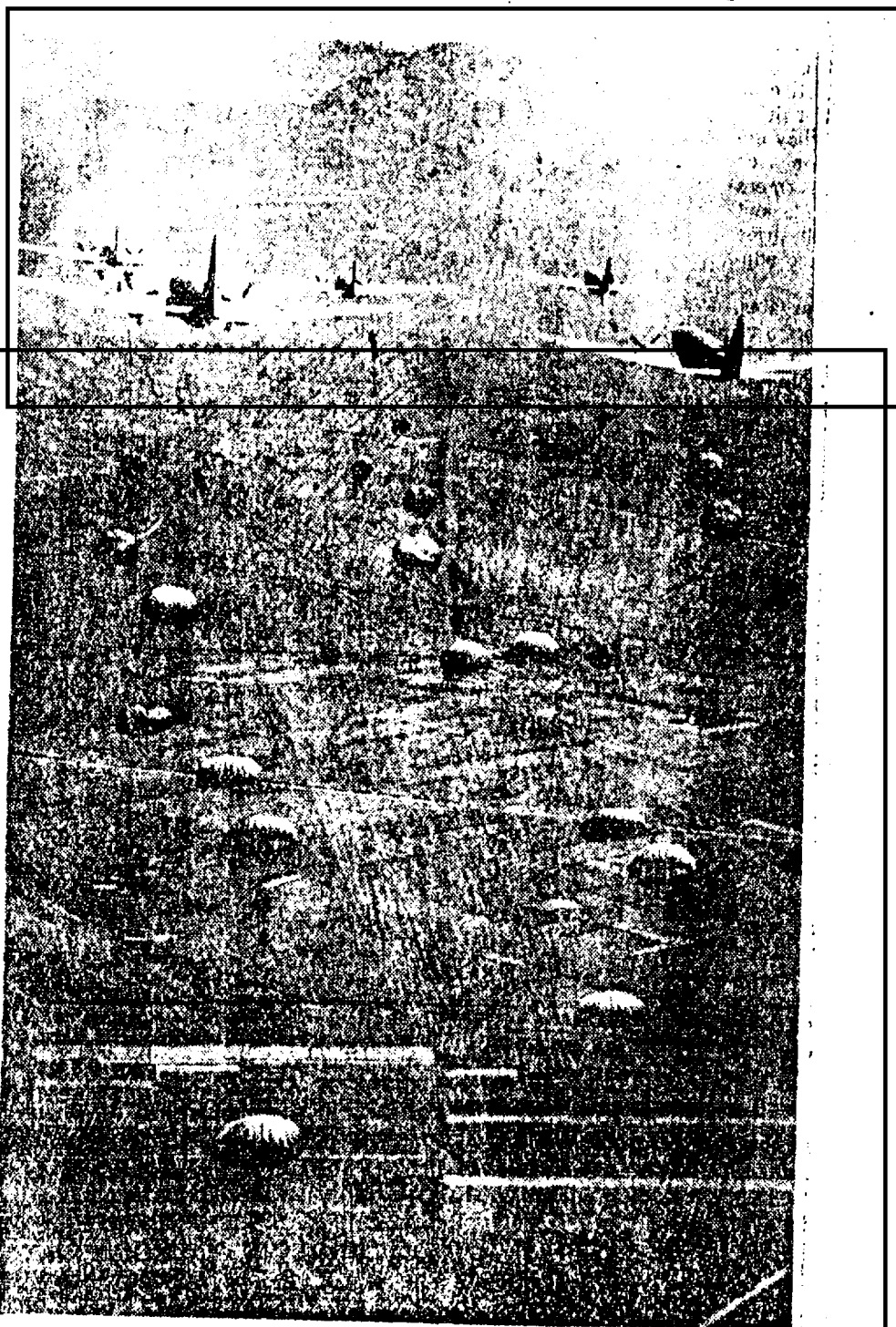
WASHINGTON, May 18

AS THE PRESSURE of the Com-  
munists in Laos increases, a fa-  
miliar shadow again darkens the  
eastern horizon. Because the  
United States ignores Red China  
does not mean that it will conven-  
iently fold up, nor does it mean  
that the increasing thrust of Chi-  
nese imperialism will not be felt  
throughout Asia.

If there are two Chinas—Chiang Kai-  
shek's Formosa, and the Communist main-  
land—there are also two China policies  
within the United States Government. Pow-  
erful forces in the Pentagon and the Cen-  
tral Intelligence Agency have never aban-  
doned the view that American interests in  
the Far East cannot be safeguarded short  
of a direct confrontation with Red China.

THE OFFICIAL policy is to build up  
Chiang on Formosa as a theoretical alter-  
native to the Red dictatorship. Some three  
billion dollars in American military and  
economic aid have gone into the island,  
which is about one-third the size of Cuba  
with nearly twice the population. Chiang  
continues to promise a return to the main-  
land, but he has signed an agreement that  
he will not undertake an invasion without  
the consent of the United States. Official  
policy set by the President is opposed to  
any invasion attempt, in the conviction  
that such an attempt would be suicidal  
under present circumstances.

What points this up are recurring  
rumors that Chiang, now 75 years old,  
means nevertheless to make the try. He  
has had strong support in the past from  
the Pentagon-CIA faction that believes  
in a direct conflict with China. And de-  
spite the fact that a high civilian official  
of the Pentagon went to Formosa spec-  
ifically to tell the Generalissimo that  
invasion plans could not be realized  
without massive United States support,



Paratroopers of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist Chinese forces and soldiers of  
the U.S. Army's 503rd Airborne Battle Group are seen in southern Formosa, the largest since World War II.